

B. The Chuang People

Because the Chuang are better off economically than the other non-Han ethnic groups in Kwangsi and live in close association with the Han Chinese, they are not easily distinguishable from the latter.¹⁶ Chuang people readily intermarry with the Han Chinese, and many who intermarry are not certain whether their ancestors were Chuang or Han. The Chuang's own traditional marriage system is free of the service of a middleman, and marriage is usually performed at festival times. The bride stays with her parents until the child is born, and only then is the marriage considered consummated.¹⁷ In these customs, they are more like the Miao than the Han Chinese.

563
582

563
583

Many Chuang speak, read and write Chinese. They are not despised by the Han Chinese as much as are the other non-Han ethnic groups. However, many Chuang people who regard themselves as intellectuals and upper-class people do not like to admit that they are Chuang. Like the Pu-yi in Kweichow, the Chuang of Kwangsi as a minority group actually do not pose any minority problem for the Chinese administration.

563

16. Min-tsu Cheng-t'sê Wen-hsien Hui-pien [Compendium of Documents on Nationalities Policies], Peking, Jen-min ch'u-pan-she, 1953, p. 52-53.

17. Wiens, op. cit., p. 53.